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Subject: RYWAK Stepan of New York, N.Y., his trip to the Ukraine
in May/June 1966

Source : P.M.

Date : 28 Jul 1966

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B
VAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

1. In May and June 1966 Subject visited his brother Wasyl RYWAK in Lviv, West Ukraine. The latter is a former US citizen, who gave up his American citizenship in 1957 and returned to Ukraine. Before WW II Wasyl was a prominent member of the OUN, later on, during and after the war joined a Ukrainian socialist group in Germany. At the present Wasyl is a member of the Society for Cultural Contacts with Ukrainians Abroad, headed by Smolych. Wasyl is working in Lvov at an agricultural insitute headed by a brother of the Ukrainian writer ANTONENKO-DAVIDOVYCH. During his 5 week visit to Ukraine Subject stayed in Lvov, with the exception of 2 days spent in Kiev and Kaniv.

2. Wasyl met Subject at the Kiev airport and from there they went to Lvov. From the very first day Wasyl made no bones about what he thought of the Soviet system. He said that there was neither socialism nor communism in the Soviet Union, that the regime mercilessly exploited the people, and that a very strong and perfidiously planned Russification was under way in Ukraine. Of course, Wasyl openly spoke his mind only while they were walking on the streets. He never touched on any political topic when they were in company of other people or in an apartment.

Although Subject wanted to visit other Ukrainian cities before going to Lvov, Wasyl advised to proceed directly to Lviv.

In their discussions Wasyl would dwell extensively upon the question of future developments in the Ukraine. He is very unhappy about the state of Ukrainian affairs. He is quite pessimistic about the chances of Ukrainian people to effectively oppose Russification.

SECRET

SECRET

However, during the last days of Subject's visit, Wasyl introduced him to TYRANSKY Oleksander, aged 40, a Ukrainian writer, who, according to Wasyl is a Ukrainian patriot and well familiar with what what is going on now in the Ukraine, and particularly among Ukrainian youth. TYRANSKY told Subject about the recent trials of the two brothers Bohdan and Mykhailo HORN.

TYRANSKY, Subject's brother Wasyl, and other persons in Lviv, whom he does not want to identify, told him about the trial and mentioned specifically that the accused were hailed by a group of students and writers. After the sentence was announced, a young writer from Kiev, by the name CHORNOVOVK (or something similar to that) gave a bouquet of flowers to the defendants. KOSTENKO Lina was said to be also around and having protested.

DZIUBA Ivan was summoned to testify against the defendants but he refused to do so.

According to Subject the demonstrations of the students were not as large as some people here said. He also doubted that there was any substance to the allegation that a group of Ukrainian jurists had prepared a petition to the United Nations. On the contrary, he has heard in the Ukraine that allegedly such a petition has been made by Ukrainian jurists in exile.

(N.B. On the whole Subject's relations on his sojourn in Lvov showed a clear tendency to diminish the strength of Ukrainian potential and overemphasize the threat of Russification.)

3. During a conversation at a Lvov apartment, a professor or lecturer, Ukrainian, female (Subject refused to name her) had mentioned something to the effect that HORYN and LEBEN were related. Subject, however, interrupted her by giving a sign with his hand that the apartment might be bugged and it was better to talk about such matters somewhere else.

SECRET

SECRET

4. When talking about the emigration's politics, Basil very strongly accentuated the need to wage an attack against Russification, but from a Leninist point of view, as if to say that what the CPSU is doing does not conform to the Leninist principles towards nationalities.

5. Subject visited Kiev and Kaniv. In Kiev nothing struck him as being changed, except for the fact that Russian was excessively spoken in the streets. In Kaniv, by the grave of Taras Shevchenko, Subject met with two youth groups, one from Kiev and the other from Lviv. With one group, the one from Kiev, Subject sailed on the Dniپر in a torpedo boat. That is where Subject met Hania, a girl from Galicia now a student at the Institute of Lomonosov in Kiev. At the grave of Shevchenko the following noticeable events happened: One young man loudly proclaimed his disapproval of the fact that the inscription on Shevchenko's monument (a quote from Shevchenko's diary - Great Fulton) was in Russian. Subject wanted to have a few words with the young man but he disappeared into the crowd. The student guide led the group into the cellars where she showed them photographs of previous monuments to Shevchenko. The students brought attention to the fact that all the previous monuments had a cross on it and asked why the same was not true of the present one. The guide answered that a monument is a document of culture, to which the students angrily protested that a cross is also a symbol of culture. There ensued a very embarrassing situation for the guide. A similar situation occurred when the guide told Subject, in presence of both student groups, that all emigrants are scoundrels. Subject replied: and Lenin? Students roared with laughter. Students also laughed when Subject answered the guide's charge that Ukrainians in America are forgetting the Ukrainian language. Subject replied that he had not heard Ukrainian being spoken in Kiev. Finally Subject heard an argument which occurred between the Kiev and Liviv groups. The subject of the argument was whether to travel to Kiev separately or in a group. The Kievans insisted on traveling separately, while the Lvivians

SECRET

accused the former of wanting to travel separately so that they could "baffle in Russian."

6. Coming back to Kiev, Subject, together with Hania and her girl friend, went to the private museum of Ivan Honchar (near the Pechers'ka Lavra). Mr. Honchar is a sculptor but at the same time he collects documents from the Ukrainian past and has gathered some very impressive exhibits. When Subject and the girls became acquainted with Mr. Honchar, the latter played back a tape of a lecture he had delivered on the subject of: "The Meaning of the National Cultures of Ukraine and Other Nations in the USSR in the Building of Communism." His thesis is this: according to Lenin, fusion of cultures and nations in communism can only take place after each nation has fully developed its national language and culture. Mr. Honchar mentioned that he ^{is} ~~was~~ afraid "they" will close down his museum. Concerning the struggle against Russification, Mr. Honchar said that the best way to wage the battle is from a Leninist point of view because that will legalize our struggle.

7. It is worthy to point out that Subject was very enthusiastic when talking about Kaniv and the patriotism showed by the Ukrainian youth. When asked how he could reconcile his enthusiasm with the pessimism he had expressed of his stay in Lviv, Subject had no clear cut answer.